

The ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

January 1988



The Academy Looks to the Future



Dr. Frank
Talbot,
Academy
Director,
inspects
Allosaurus

Susan Middleton

To prepare for the future, and to insure the Academy's reputation in science education and the maintenance of its natural history collections, the Academy began a long range master planning process in November, 1981. Now, six years later, with advice from staff and trustees, parents and teachers, community groups and professional museum planners, the museum is closer to receiving the needed permissions to accomplish these goals.

To refresh your memories, and to inform our many new members, the Academy's master plan has been designed to improve the visitor experience by 1) renovating existing spaces and 2) providing additional space for exhibitions, science education, research collections and staff, without 3) taking up more space in Golden Gate Park. The design solutions include:

- bay windows to allow viewing of a sort of prehistoric garden for the dinosaur exhibits in Life Through Time: The Evidence for Evolution;
- glass enclosure for the front porch to protect waiting school children from the cold;

- four great living exhibits in the central courtyard to be covered by a faceted glass roof;
- replacement building for the 1916 Bird Hall to provide new temporary and permanent display space (basement and first floor) and new cafeteria and members' areas on the second and third floors;
- two floors added to Science Hall for research collections and support staff;
- new one-story Oceans Hall built over the aquarium loading dock to connect "Life Through Time" and the Fish Roundabout.

These plans need permits from various agencies, including the Board of Supervisors. At this writing the draft environmental impact report has been reviewed by the public and hearings may take place later this month. This space does not permit a full description nor could it possibly communicate the exciting opportunities these plans represent for science education, not only for youngsters, but for everyone concerned about the environment and our place in it. If you'd like to know more, call the Public Information Office at (415)750-7142.

Members' Meetings Discover the Wildlife of Scotland

The wildlife and scenery of the northern Highlands of Scotland will be the focus of the Members' Meetings on Wednesday, January 13 at 2:00 and 7:30 p.m. and Thursday, January 14 at 7:30 p.m. Minette Bell MacDonald, a former Royal Society for the Protection of Birds warden, will describe the wildflowers, animals, general ecology, historical monuments and particularly the birds of this serenely beautiful area. Ms. MacDonald has had wide experience studying and photographing birds in a number of reserves in Britain.

For the Members' Meetings on February 10 and 11 Dennis Cornejo offers a provocative look at "Sex and the Single Flower."

Raptor Update



Meet William S. Clark, author of the new "Peterson Field Guide to Hawks," on Tuesday, January 12 at 7:30 p.m. Clark, who is the former director of the Raptor Information Center for the National Wildlife Foundation, will present a slide lecture on "State of Art in Raptor Field Identification" and sign copies of his new book. Clark is currently doing research on the hawk migration through Eilat, Israel, the largest single migration site in the world.

The program is co-sponsored by the Academy and the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory of the GGNPA. Copies of this newest field guide will be for sale after the lecture. Tickets are available at the door for \$2 for members of either sponsoring organization or \$3 for non-members. For information call (415)556-2236.

Foot Tapping Spring Concerts



*The
Harmonics
Steelband*

The 1988 Spring Concert Series in Morrison Planetarium is guaranteed to catch you up in its spirited rhythms. Lively groups of accomplished musicians present music from around the world under the star-filled skies of the Planetarium.

The first concert in the new series presents The Harmonic Steelband playing music of the Caribbean on Tuesday, January 26 at 8:00 p.m. The Harmonics are an ensemble of steel-drummers whose broad repertoire embraces everything from their native melodic numbers to Jazz and classical pieces.

Steeldrums, which are made from discarded 55-gallon oil barrels, originated in Trinidad and Tobago around 1935. The drums, which are cut and hammered into various shapes, can reproduce five octaves of delicately chromatic tones. Since playing with Arthur Feidler in the 1973 San Francisco

Summer Pops Festival, the Harmonics Steelband has been delighting audiences with their calypso and reggae rhythms.

Future concerts in the Spring Series are Kulintang playing music of the Philippines on February 23; Maureen and Ciel performing Irish melodies on March 29; Kitka Eastern European Womens Chorus on April 19; and Mariachi Nuevo San Jose with Mexican rhythms on May 17.

Tickets for the series of five concerts are \$25 for members and \$35 for non-members. Tickets for individual performances are \$6 for members and \$8 for non-members. To purchase tickets send a check and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Morrison Planetarium, Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA 94118. For information call (415)750-7127.

New Free Wednesday Evening Programs at Golden Gate Park Museums

If your busy schedule makes it hard to find time to visit the museums in Golden Gate Park, the new Wednesday night hours will be of interest to you and your family. All year long, on the first Wednesday of each month, the Academy, the Asian Art Museum and the M.H. deYoung Memorial Museum will remain open until 8:45 p.m. Come and enjoy the collections, temporary exhibitions, special programs, a light supper, or browse in the

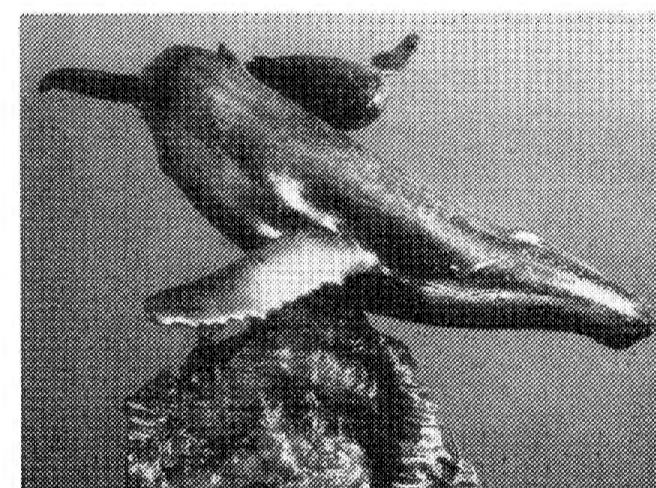
museums' shops. At the Academy, for instance, on January 6, you can have a beverage from the Waterhole Bar in African Hall and see a live presentation of "Science In Action" in Cowell Hall. Collect some laughs in the Far Side of Science Gallery, and see what the dolphins do when the sun goes down. These new free Wednesday night programs at the three museums are made possible by Mrs. Marriner S. Eccles.

Planetarium Previews 1988

January offers just a few chances to see "The Christmas Star" which closes on the third. The Planetarium will be closed from January 4 through 7 while the star projector is prepared for the new sky show "Skywatch 88" opening January 8. This new program offers a preview of the astronomical events that will occur in the coming year. Solar and lunar eclipses, especially dramatic Perseid and Geminid meteor showers, and an update on the American and Soviet space programs offer the latest news about what's happening in the heavens. "Skywatch 88" continues through March 6.

"Exploring the Skies of the Season" shows the current night skies over San Francisco without worry about fog or distracting city lights. Shows are on Saturdays and Sundays at noon.

Whale of an Exhibition



*"Dyad"
(humpback
whales)
by
Randy
Puckett*

The Academy celebrates this whale watching season with a special exhibition organized by the Bank of America. Entitled "Whales: the Mystery and Beauty of the Deep," Academy visitors will see original paintings, etchings, and wood and bronze sculptures of whales by well-known artists through the month of January. As an added bonus to the museum, Bank of America will make a cash contribution to the Academy for each order of 200 whale checks or checkbook covers received through the run of the show. Donations of equal amounts will also be made to the Monterey Bay Aquarium and to the Marine Mammal Fund.

They Ran to the Far Side



Kenneth Lee

More than 10,200 runners lined up on Sunday, November 29 to run, walk or cavort 5 or 10 kilometers for the Third Annual Run to the Far Side. After crossing the finish line the runners still had lots of energy left to salute cartoonist Gary Larson with enthusiastic cheers as he presented medals to the over-all winners. Proceeds

from the run paid for the new Larson Gallery which opened to giggles, chuckles, and occasional roars of laughter on Thanksgiving Day. The gallery displays 169 Larson original cartoons, some with added science notes by Academy staff, making it one of the funniest ways ever found to learn about science.

Food Symposium



CHILIES TO CHOCOLATE

Save the Date! On March 12 the Academy will bring together experts from many fields to discuss our native foods in "Chilies to Chocolate: Foods the Americas Gave the World." Tickets for this one day symposium will be \$45 for members of the Academy and \$55 for non-members. Watch for details and a ticket order form in the February Newsletter.

Emerald Web Weaves Magic in the Planetarium

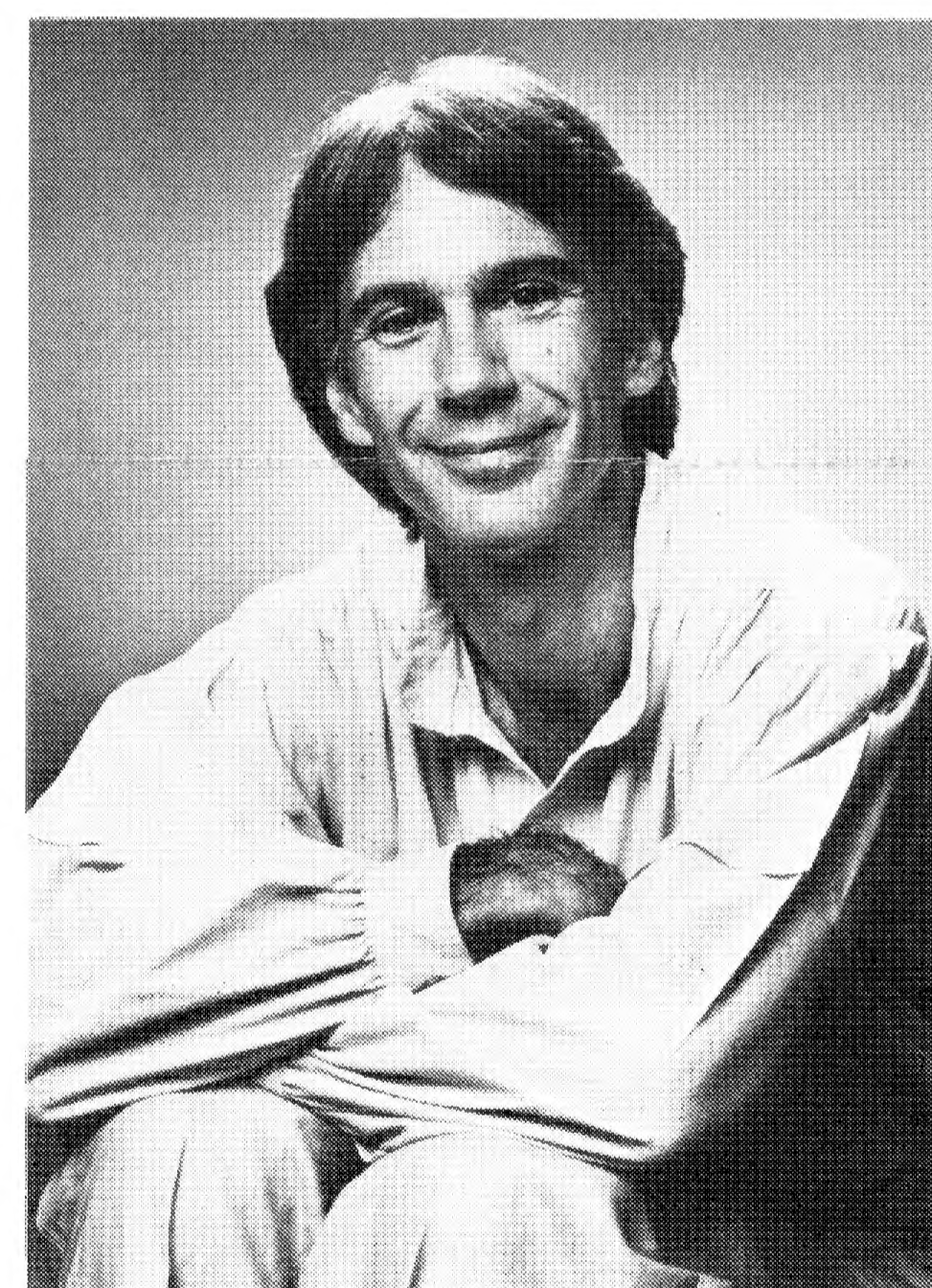
The Emmy award-winning Emerald Web will weave a magical spell of ethereal, progressive music in Morrison Planetarium on February 9 and 10 at 8:00 p.m. Bob Stohl and Kat Epple, who form Emerald Web, create a captivating blend of shimmering synthesizer and intricate flute passages augmented by an entire orchestra of computer and electronic keyboards. Their concert will feature works from their award-winning album "Cats-paw" performed with special laser visuals by Laserium.

Tickets for each concert are \$8 for Academy members and \$10 for non-members. Send a check and a self-addressed stamped envelope to Morrison Planetarium, Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA 94118. For information call (415)750-7127.

The Dazzle of Laserium

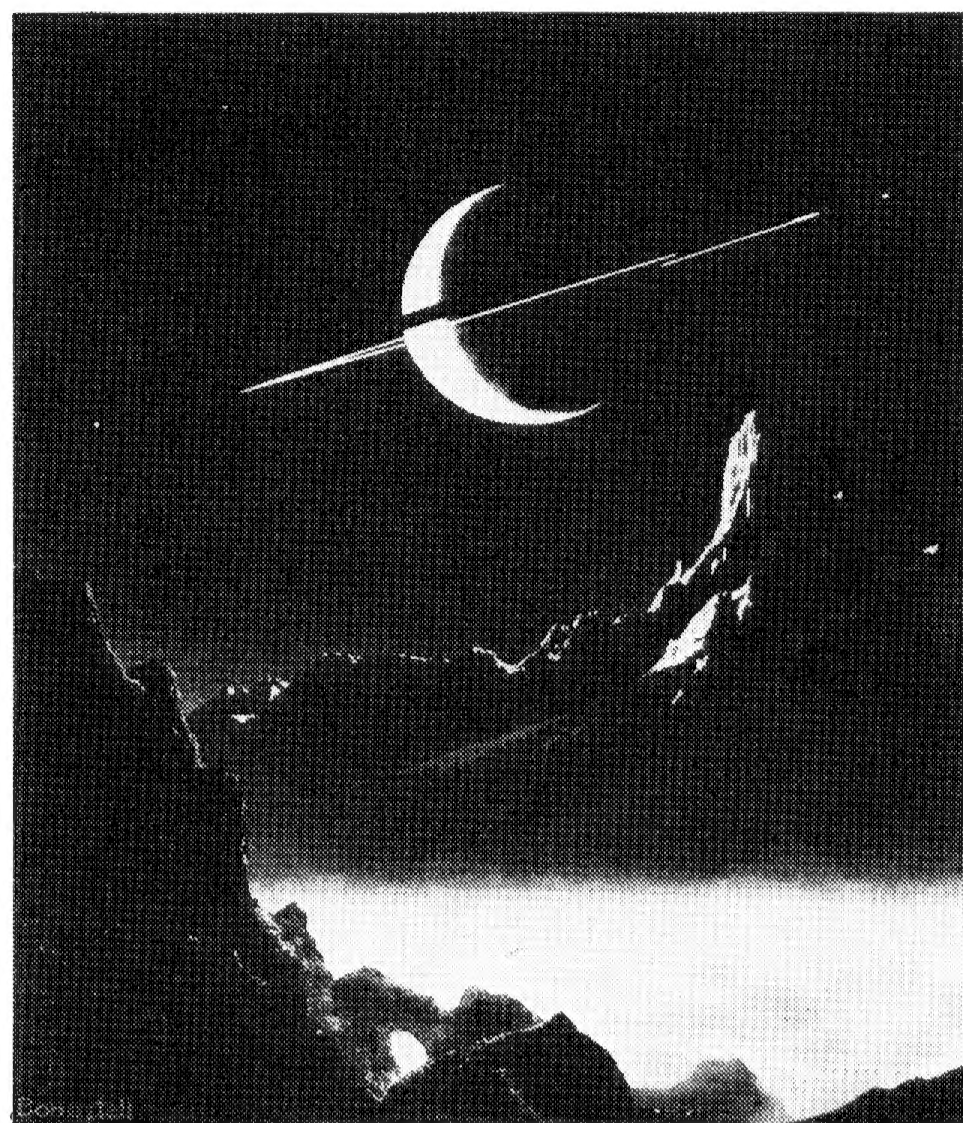
Laserium presents the latest in laser technology at four different shows offered on Thursday through Sunday evenings in Morrison Planetarium. "Laserium Presents the Grateful Dead," "Moonrock," "Rainbow Cadenza," and "Rendezvous with Jean-Michel Jarre" delight audiences of every musical taste. For a complete schedule call (415)750-7138. Don't forget, Laserium is not an Academy production so there is no membership discount.

Young Audiences



In the tradition of the old time troubadors, itinerant balladeer Willy Claflin performs folk songs that reflect his traveling experiences during the Rock 'n' Roll era of the 1950's and 60's on Sunday, January 31 at 1:00 p.m. His musical repertoire incorporates finger picking on the guitar and scat singing, and includes a host of hilarious puppet friends such as Albert the Alligator, Maynard the Moose, and Cirius the Dog Star. Young Audiences performance are funded by grants from the McKesson Foundation and Grants For The Arts.

Space Visions to Appear in January



Saturn From Its Moon Titan

How many of us grew up thumbing the pages of "The Conquest of Space," mesmerized by the visions of space and distant planets through the paintings of artist Chesley Bonestell. The Academy is proud to bring together a stunning collection of original works by the acknowledged dean of astronomical artists in "Space Visions: The Art of Chesley Bonestell," opening January 30 in Lovell White Hall.

Chesley Bonestell was born in San Francisco in 1888. His artistic career spanned eight decades, most notably as an illustrator of space flight and astronomical subjects, and his vivid imagination and powerful insights have inspired generations of scientists, physicists and writers. As early as 1948, long before probes brought back photographs of our solar system, Bonestell worked with scientists to create amazingly accurate paintings of space. Over 40 of his paintings appear in this special exhibition which runs through May 15.

Continuing exhibitions — "John Muir's High Sierra: A Watercolor Diary by Tony Foster" through January 10; the radiant color photographs of Tupper Ansel Blake in "Tracks in the Sky: Wildlife and Wetlands of the Pacific Flyway" through February 7; and "The Drylands: The Deserts of North America," dramatic photographs by Philip Hyde through May 8.

The Great Escape

Escape the gray skies of winter on

A 9-Day Natural History Cruise Through the Sunny Caribbean — February 26 – March 5

Join Academy members on this natural history exploration to Margarita, Trinidad, Tobago, the Grenadines, Dominica, and concluding in Curacao in the Netherlands Antilles. Traveling is done in greatest comfort aboard the M.S. Ambassador.

The Caribbean offers some of the most interesting natural sights in this hemisphere. From luxuriant rainforests to coral reefs, the group will explore a wide range of habitats and discover a fascinating world of colorful birds, exotic flowers and marine life.

On Curacao a visit to the Seaquarium reveals the world's largest collection of tropical fish and invertebrates. The M.S. Ambassador then sails to Margarita where the group explores winding mangrove channels populated with a variety of birdlife. Journeying on to

Trinidad, members will visit the Royal Botanic Gardens, the Caroni Bird Sanctuary, and the Asa Wright Nature Center which houses collections of Caribbean flora and fauna. Visits to Bird of Paradise Island, Tobago and to the luxuriant tropical rainforests and black sand beaches of Dominica conclude this memorable Caribbean holiday.

Of course, there will be time to savor the beautiful beaches and wonderful snorkeling opportunities that one finds in the Caribbean.

Costs range from \$1190 to \$1520 depending on your accommodations aboard the Ambassador. Airfare round trip from San Francisco to Miami is additional and is currently \$327. \$150 of the cruise cost is a tax-deductible donation to the California Academy of Sciences.

Other 1988 Expeditions include:

Tanzania Tenting Safari
March 3-19

Leader: Dr. Pepper Trail

The Fringe of Polynesia
March 4-24

Leader: Dr. John McCosker

Baja California and the Sea of Cortez
March 24-April 4

Leader: Dr. James Kelley

Alaska: Land of the Midnight Sun
June 20-July 4

Leader: Dr. David Kavanaugh

The Land of Genghis Khan: Mongolia and Siberia

June 9-July 1

Leader: Dr. Robert Drewes

Beyond the North Cape
Edinburgh to Spitsbergen
June 24-July 13

Western Australia
August 16-September 5
Leaders: Dr. and Mrs. Frank Talbot

Kenya Safari Adventure
August 14-29
Leader: Jens Vindum

Indians of America's Southwest
August 27-September 11
Leader: Dr. Linda Cordell

For information on The Great Escape or other Academy expeditions call the Academy's Travel Office at (415)750-7222 or send the form below to the Travel Office, Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA 94118.

☐ Yes, I wish to escape the gray skies of winter. Please send me information on your trip to the Caribbean.

☐ I cannot participate in the Caribbean Cruise, but please send information on other Academy expeditions.

Name _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

*The California Academy of Sciences presents
The Claire Matzger Lilienthal Distinguished Lecturer Series*

Bones of Contention: Views of Our Ancestors



Dr. Donald C. Johanson

Thursday, February 25

7:30 p.m.

*Palace of Fine Arts
Theater*

Since the first discovery in the mid-19th century of human ancestor fossils, the study of human origins has been locked in controversy. The fragmentary nature of fossils of early humans and their uncertain age have led paleoanthropologists to alternative, often controversial interpretations of our evolutionary history. A provocative and dynamic lecturer, Dr. Donald C. Johanson will touch on a number of these controversies. Johanson will especially focus on his exciting newest discovery at Olduvai Gorge, northern Tanzania and on his recent

debate with the Leakey family about the position of his fossil find known as Lucy on the human family tree.

Dr. Johanson earned his Ph.D. at the University of Chicago and is best known as co-director of the International Afar Research Expedition which discovered the partial skeleton known as "Lucy" and numerous other fossils assigned to *Australopithecus afarensis*. He founded and is the director of the Institute of Human Origins in Berkeley and is continuing his research at Olduvai Gorge.

Ticket Order Form — Bones of Contention

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Daytime phone _____

Enclosed is a check payable to the California Academy of Sciences for:

_____members tickets at \$4 _____non-members tickets at \$5

Please send this form and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to The Special Programs Office, Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA 94118.

Traditional Arts Bring the World to the Academy



Maizie Ung

Music, dance, handcrafts and savory foods from around the world are offered in the weekly Traditional Arts programs in Wattis Hall. Every Saturday at 1:00 p.m. a Bay Area resident shares a part of his or her native culture with museum visitors in a lively presentation which offers a close look at the rich diversity of cultural traditions. These programs are offered free to museum visitors because of a grant from the Paul L. and Phyllis Wattis Foundation.

January 9 — Bira Almeida performs *capoeira*, an Afro-Brazilian art form combining elements of the martial arts, dance, and gymnastics, accompanied by the pulsating sound of the *berimbau* — a unique Brazilian folk instrument.

January 16 — Evo and Jemmy Bluestein perform American work songs on guitar, fiddle, banjo, mandolin, and autoharp. The songs reflect the different occupational experiences of loggers, miners, cowboys, farmers, seamen and railroaders.

January 23 — Suheir Khalaf, who was born in Jerusalem, demonstrates the cross-stitch techniques of Palestinian embroidery, used to embellish traditional costumes and household textiles.

January 30 — Joan Savoury prepares the national dish of Jamaica — Salt Fish and Ackee (an indigenous vegetable) — served as a main course with hard-dough bread.

Golden Gate Park
San Francisco, California 94118-9961
(415) 221-5100

Open daily from 10 to 5



Non-Profit Organization
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San Francisco

January Begins a New Year of Exciting Events at the Academy

Continuing exhibits:

"John Muir's High Sierra" through January 10

"Tracks in the Sky" through February 7

"Drylands" through May 8

"Whales" through January 31

"The Far Side of Science Gallery" permanent

- 6 All Golden Gate Park Museums open free until 8:45 p.m.
- 9 Traditional Arts — Afro-Brazilian dance gymnastics
- 12 Lecture on Raptors 7:30 p.m.
- 13 Members' Meetings "Wildlife of Northern Scotland" 2:00 and 7:30 p.m.
- 14 Members Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 16 Traditional Arts — American work songs 1:00 p.m.
- 23 Traditional Arts - Palestinian embroidery 1:00 p.m.
- 26 The Harmonic Steelband in Planetarium 8:00 p.m.
- 30 "Space Visions: The Art of Chesley Bonestell" opens
- 30 Traditional Arts — Jamaican food 1:00 p.m.
- 31 Young Audiences — Willy Claflin sings 1:00 p.m.



Ann Giordano

Shop the Academy Store on New Year's Day and help celebrate the Store's one year anniversary. The Academy Store will be open New Year's Day offering a unique assortment of books, gifts, jewelry and art objects from around the world. All purchases in the Academy Store benefit the Academy's programs and members receive 10% discount.

Looking Ahead to February

- 9 & 10 Emerald Web in Planetarium
- 10 Members' Meetings "Sex and the Single Flower" 2:00 and 7:30 p.m.
- 11 Members' Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 25 "Bones of Contention" lecture by Dr. Donald C. Johanson 7:30 p.m., Palace of Fine Arts Theater